MUTINY

A PAPER OF ANARCHISTIC IDEAS & ACTIONS

ISSUE #25 APRIL 2008

Reflections on the Easter Anarchist Convergence

"Other" Struggles of Casa Comunitarios in Mexico

Mutiny Zine Editors Talk to Themselves

Protest, Party, Action! - Dump the G8 Summit in Japan

Mutiny began as a group exploring different ways to resist war at home & abroad. We started a monthly zine to explore different avenues of disobedience. We know there are lots of radical ideas around & we want people to write about their experiences & opinions. The Mutiny collective is meeting regularly again: we're looking at Australian imperialism & avenues of resistance in the Pacific & the region. Contact us if you're interested.

(The mutiny zine collective does not necessarily agree with all the opinions of contributors. Contributors do not necessarily agree with all the opinions of the mutiny collective. The mutiny collective doesn't agree with all the opinions of the mutiny collective.)

Mutiny zine #25, April 2007.
Happy birthday to us!

For all the other editors: Changie McChangemind, Emmy Hennings, Exploded Cake, Gonah, Huevo Podrido, Mambutu, Marshall Cinque, Navin, Revolting Little Grrrl, ruckus, Szarapow, T with Alice, Vikram

Editors for this month: Graf Cat, Maximum Solidarity, Dumpstered Twin, Princess Mob & SourDough.

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Brief News

Melbourne: G20 protesters sentenced

Ten people charged after the G20 protests in Melbourne in 2006 were sentenced in Melbourne Magistrates Court this month. The ten had pleaded guilty to charges including riot and criminal damage at the start of the committal hearing in March, in return for other charges being dropped.

All ten received convictions. Five were given suspended sentences of between 5 and 9 months. The sentences are wholly suspended for 18 months, which means that unless those who received them are convicted of another offence within that time, they will not have to go to jail. They were also given fines of between $1000 and $4000 each. The remaining five were sentenced to between 180-250 hours of unpaid community service, to be served over the next year.

Four of the protesters were also ordered to pay compensation to police over damage to the police brawler van. The details of this will not be worked out until after the remaining defendants have been through court.

Thirteen will go to trial in Melbourne County Court at a date yet to be set, but which is likely to be late next year. A number of people will appear in Children's Court later this month.

Akin Sari, who is serving a 28-month sentence over G20 offences, has been moved to Barwon Prison, so the address in last zine is no longer current. His new address is:

Akin Sari
C/- Corrections Victoria
GPO Box 123
Melbourne
VIC 3001

Make sure you put a return name and address or it won't be accepted.

For information about ongoing solidarity and fundraising, see afterG20.org.

Romania: Violent Repression At NATO Summit

At approximately 12:30pm on 2nd April hundreds of Romanian police violently raided a convergence center in Bucharest, the country's capital. The convergence space was set up to facilitate an anti-NATO gathering and was legally rented. It was reported that at least two protesters were hospitalised during the raid. Various reports stated that people were badly beaten while in custody and even while taken to hospital. Numerous people were reported to be seriously injured and some were refused medical assistance while in custody.

It was estimated that 46 people have been arrested. No demonstration or action had happened before the raid and all the arrests were made inside the convergence centre. Police officers were masked and reportedly very aggressive towards journalists trying to access the scene. The convergence centre was located near the centre of Bucharest, which was hosting a NATO summit that just got underway on April 3. It is estimated that up to 27,000 police officers, military, snipers and secret police were 'guarding'

the city. The security alert code yellow was been announced, which meant that all demonstrations were forbidden in the whole city amongst other restrictive laws.

10 days before the Bucharest NATO summit, about 1,000 people from 17 European countries went to the NATO headquarters in Brussels on the 23rd of March. The international non-violent action NATO GAME OVER closed down NATO headquarters.

from www.indymedia.org

Egypt: strike over food, work conditions

Thousands of demonstrators angry about rising prices and stagnant salaries torched buildings, looted shops and hurled bricks at police who responded with tear gas over two days in the northern industrial town of Mahalla El-Kobra as Egyptians staged a nationwide strike. Riots broke out among residents and workers at the largest textile factory in Egypt as security forces interfered with workers' plans to participate in the strike. Protesters stormed city hall, burned tires in the streets, smashed chairs through shop windows and ran off with computers. At least two schools were set ablaze and facades of banks were vandalized, police said. Elsewhere across Egypt, thousands skipped work and school and hundreds protested over the rising cost of food and deteriorating working conditions. Solidarity protests also occurred in Cairo, the capital. Nearly 40 percent Egypt's 76 million-strong population live below or near the poverty line of $2 a day. The prices of staples such as cooking oil and rice have nearly doubled in recent months, amid widespread shortages of government-subsidized bread.

from http://bombsandshields.blogspot.com

USA: Court Rejects Mumia Abu-Jamal's Appeal

Mumia Abu Jamal, who was sentenced to death in 1982 for the murder of a police officer, has lost another appeal to have his case re-heard. He has been in jail for over two decades since his arrest in 1981. He was found guilty of murder in a trial that was fraught with bias and racial discrimination amongst highly suspect police crime scene investigation, the coercion of witnesses by police and manufactured evidence.

Mumia's death sentence was turned to life imprisonment in 2001.

On March 27 this year it was revealed that the Third Circuit Court of Appeals would not give Mumia a new trial about his guilt or innocence. The three-judge panel decided to uphold the findings of the original trial and uphold his life imprisonment.

Mumias head lawyer, Robert R. Bryan, states "Today's decision is a mixed bag..." This is partially because although Mumia was declined the possibility of a new guilt-phase trial – which is ultimately what Mumia wants in order to have the possibility of proving his innocence – the three judge panel had dissent, with one of the judges stating that a few elements of the situation Mumia was in when his guilty verdict was passed should be enough to give him a new trial. One of these elements was the overtly racist police culture during the time of the trial.

There is the possibility of two more appeals in higher courts and so the possibility that his guilty verdict may one day be reversed.

Pam Africa, MOVE's minister of confrontation says: "we know that if Mumia gets justice, it will not come from the courts, but only from the pressure generated by the people."

See http://www.freemumia.com/ for more links and info.

Reflections on the Easter Anarchist Convergence

Over the Easter long weekend, people gathered in Melbourne to talk about anarchism & anarchist organising in Australia & the region. About sixty people were there – often enough to fill the front room of the former radiator workshop that the Melbourne Anarchist Club recently bought & is working to turn into an ongoing political space.

The conference had been called around a proposal to form a regional anarchist federation. This proposal was discussed a lot over the weekend, & a decision was made not to form a federation at this stage. Instead, it was seen as something to continue to work towards, & a number of structures were set up to help ongoing communication. One of these was a commitment to regular regional meetings, at least in Victoria & NSW – see the ad elsewhere in Mutiny for information about the upcoming Sydney meeting. There was also a network communication decided on, through which groups can keep in touch with what's going on, & a couple of online communication structures for groups & individuals to share news, information & proposals.

Alongside these discussions, there were a number of conversations called around particular projects. The gathering provided a space where projects could kick off; including a 'militant research' network, organising for protests against the arms fair in Adelaide in November, a newspaper about anarchist analysis of climate change & networks for skill-sharing & distribution for people putting out publications.

I could tell you what I thought about it, but that would be an exercise in self-indulgence & probably bad journalism. Also, then I'd have to write heaps. Instead, this article is an attempt to compile a bunch of ad-hoc surveys of different people who were there. It's not a perfect sample (it's skewed towards the people I could get in touch with at the last minute to make the deadline). But I did my best, & I talked to people from Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra & Adelaide; people who were part of organising & people who weren't; people who went as part of a collective & people who didn't; & people who have quite long histories of involvement in anarchism in Australia & people who came along because they wanted to see what it was all about. I also took into account the report posted by the Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group at http://www.ainfos.ca/en/ainfos20677.html.

If you were at the conference – or even if you weren't - & you have something to add to this discussion, please write a letter to the zine.

What was good

Overall, people were happy with the convergence as a space to meet people, to have political discussions & to make practical connections.

"The best thing was the general discussion that flowed out of workshops, the conversations that went on after – the fact that the political discussions did continue over beer."

"Basically I [went because I] was pretty sure I disagreed with a lot of the way socialist/Marxist groups organised, but [was] finding the lack of theoretical, big picture discussion in groups I was organising in frustrating. […] [I] expected a small turnout, and a pretty low key, rabbly mob - I didn't really think the big picture discussions I was after would happen...but they did!"

"There was one meeting in particular between MAC and Jura about the bureaucratic stuff of running a space that just snapped everything into focus for me; imagine being able to call on other anarchists for that kind of advice all the time. It demonstrated to me that there is a real need for anarchists to work together on the basis of mutual aid, and all this politics and theory is just bullshit to fill the time. Okay, maybe that's an exaggeration, because there's obviously a need to spread anarchist ideas and discuss these things, but just seeing how this practice can really work was great to see happening right in front of me… and we were talking about fucking tax and GST!"

"I was very pleasantly surprised, at a lot of things, like the turnout, the diversity of ages and backgrounds of people there, the relevance and immediacy of discussion, […] Talking to older and younger people about politics was especially valuable as I'm stuck in my university bubble a lot of the time."

"The best thing was being able to call out for a meeting & everyone come to it, & then we were able to talk about whatever. It was really good for kicking off some good practical planning."

Divided Expectations

While people generally went to the conference mainly expecting to be able to meet people & to break out of the geographic &/or political isolation many felt, there was clearly a division about what people thought the purpose of the meeting was & how much it was connected to the Federation proposal.

A Melbourne participant & organiser wrote:

"I guess I expected both the individuals and groups to have asked themselves what a federation would be good for, and if they could see benefits for establishing these relationships with others, they would come to the conference. … MAC was only really interested in taking to anarchist groups about the possibilities of federating, and the initial call-out got us pretty excited that others were thinking along the same lines. That call-out was revised later on to be broader than, I think, we could find useful in terms of our project; we're explicitly anarchist and primarily wish to work with other anarchist groups, although obviously not exclusively."

A counterpart from Sydney, on the other hand, said:

"We thought about it as a more open conference for people who broadly agreed with the common politics. That yeah, it was a conference focussed around a proposal to form an anarchist federation, which could end up being a more politically closed organisation, & maybe wouldn't include everyone at the convergence, but that the general questions we also wanted to talk about – what the hell should we be doing right now? – was something that it was worth talking about with more people. I guess I felt like we were going into it more with the idea that the federation was a proposal, but I wanted there to be discussion in quite broad terms about whether it was a good proposal, whether it was the best way for us to work together, & what it would actually mean to do so. So I'm disappointed that Sydney, I guess, didn't put more effort into talking that through with Melbourne & the people they'd been talking to, who sometimes took the response of one small collective as an indication that they wouldn't be welcomed by the conference as a whole. Cos that's caused some problems since."

There was also division about the participation of individuals in the conference structure & the proposed federation. Someone from Melbourne said they found disappointing "the extent to which "federation" in the anarchist sense was misunderstood (or deliberately obscured) and the tendency for individuals and non-anarchists to drive the agenda away from this discussion. On reflection, it seems there was an attitude that if organised anarchist groups go ahead and co-operate or create agreements with each other that this is somehow authoritarian."

"Myself and most other members of my group expected (and expected to be disappointed) that there was no consensus understanding of what an anarchist federation is."

A Sydney participant said they were disappointed by "talking to many individuals who I think are totally awesome and having them tell me that they were alienated and felt like they totally lost enthusiasm because of the group centric nature of the talk and that whether individuals would be allowed or not was really disappointing."

Another Sydney respondent said:

"I also think there was a lot of time spent arguing over the question of how individuals would fit into any federation structure – or rather, a lot of time spent arguing against it, when I'm not really sure there ever was anyone at the convergence arguing that individuals should be part of a federation. But there were people arguing for finding other structures that would allow isolated individuals to keep in touch."

Class Politics

One of the other major points of discussion in the lead up to Easter was the question of class politics. As someone said, they strongly anticipated that "we would not be able to resolve" the key question of "the relevance of class/what it means to be a worker." However, many people found the discussion & the chance to explore these tensions in more depth encouraging.

"An excellent discussion on class occurred on the third day. A lot of people had criticised class

analysis on the second day, but when we got down to the actual discussion the next day, a lot of ideas were clarified. Several others from a range of different groups were putting forward arguments that seemed to be based on a genuine working class position."

"Something that came out of the talk was a focus on class struggle and a class analysis as almost pre-requisite, while I kinda agree, I think further talk about race, especially Indigenous struggles here in Australia - the violence at the beginning of the founding of all nation-states, and also gender [is necessary]."

Conference structure & dynamics

People generally felt that the conference ran fairly smoothly, but that there were many things that could have been improved.

"I think there were some effective experiments in interesting techniques in making it decentralised & horizontal."

"The gender imbalance, those in attendance and talking, was skewed towards men."

"I wish I could have had more time to talk to people there. More time for discussion on common politics."

"Yeah, so the crap facilitation (I mean the lack of clarity and purpose, not necessarily the facilitators them/ourselves!) and lax attitude to the agenda served to make some sessions very boring, especially when a few people would go off on some long, largely irrelevant tangents. I think the dwindling numbers over the course of the conference reflect that. Having said that, maybe the format was all wrong for our purposes, and the problems stem from that. I'd be interested in hearing what others think about it."

Talking & making history

"[I liked] talking to/listening in on, discussions of the ah recent history of protest in Australia, like s11, stuff like that, from an anarchist perspective."

"[I was disappointed that we didn't talk about] previous examples of existing anarchist federations and how they might relate to what we can create, [there was] very little discussion of previous Australian attempts to create anarchist federations. But in some ways it was heaps cool. It was still historical."

"I'm mainly glad it happened – I think it was really a good step for anarchists & associates in this country to start trying to work these things through together, instead of only meeting at activist crisis points."

The future

While the conference didn't end with the creation of a federation, participants generally felt that what came out of it were good steps towards future organising.

"I am quite energised over the conference!"

"It seemed to create some kind of a commitment to a political project that wasn't there at the start – people seemed to have been encouraged into further activity."

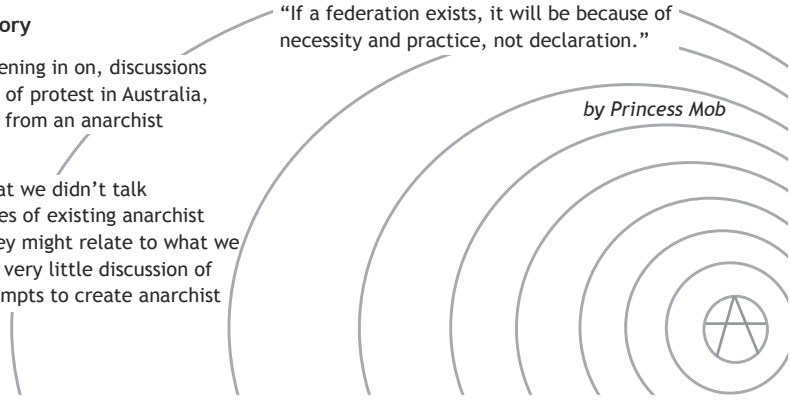
"From a MAC point of view, I think it made us realise that there's a very real possibility of federating locally."

"The Conference demonstrated that general level of consciousness and maturity in the Anarchist movement in Australia is still very uneven, but there are a number of serious groups and individuals and the balance is shifting gradually and strongly towards a higher level than we have seen before."

"I was glad we decided not to federate. [I'm] wary of the tendency of left groups to splinter over differences of semantics/organising methods, rather than genuine political opposition. And I think it's a good thing to build regional area networks first, accept that this process will be slow (there's still a lot of networking to be done just among Sydney groups for example), and that that is a good thing."

"If a federation exists, it will be because of necessity and practice, not declaration."

by Princess Mob



"Other" Struggles of 'Casas Comunitários' in Mexico

by Huevo Podrido

The Other Campaign is a slow work in progress. For three years social movements throughout Mexico, below and to the left, have been working together to realise the possibility of another world existing. However, in this process much public attention still seems somewhat transfixed on the Zapatistas and their movements, with little knowledge of the everyday struggles taking place throughout the rest of Mexico, and the social projects that are a crucial part of this process. Two of these social projects that I've fortunately come across here in Mexico is the Consejo Indígena Popular de Oaxaca [Popular Indigenous Council of Oaxaca] - Ricardo Flores Magón (CIPO-RFM) in the city of Oaxaca, and Tlalli Itozquime (Voices of the Land) in the city of Puebla.

Both of these projects involve a casa comunitário (community house…it doesn't sound as good in English) with a range of different projects coming out the spaces.

Casa Comunitário de Tlalli Itozquime

To start with Voices of the Land has been a work-in-progress for the past three months for a collective of about 15 people from Puebla (a large city two hours from Mexico City). In the last week of March the house was opened to the public with an inauguration party, followed by a weekend of workshops and socialising. On the opening night over 100 people came to the house, about thirty of which were children. They opened their café, with food, coffee, tea and poulke (alcohol from cactus) for all. The kids painted pictures, danced and played games all night. While many involved in the opening night were from other parts of Mexico, the vast majority were from the local community and sincerely interested in supporting the house and its projects.

In general the collective is open to all who want to get involved and will be working with the community in a range of projects: environmental, cultural and propaganda. The environmental projects started with a piece of land next to the house which they are beginning to cultivate. It's ridiculously hard work, as there is cement throughout the beds where they want to plant crops. The project's aim is to use the land to engage with children and the surrounding community, in which the collective will teach traditional cultivating methods and the basics of permaculture. The other environmental aspect involves constructing compost systems and explaining the importance of separating organic and non-organic waste to the broader community.

In relation to propaganda, the collective will be starting a community radio project and a monthly publication to disseminate ideas, stories and music from the community, for the community. Furthermore, in the house they have a comfy area to sit and read books from their library, and a borrowing system for DVDs and videos about struggles throughout the world.

The other aspect to the house is that they are encouraging those interested to get involved by performing music, and for kids to learn theatre, traditional dance, graffiti, stencilling and other cultural activities. The opening night was really successful as a local hip-hop group, a ska group and a reggae group performed, while to finish an indigenous group of *danzas* (folkloric dance) had a ceremony to welcome the house and everyone who attended. The house is always open to the public, with the projects regularly being attended to, and the café is open from 4-10pm Thursday to Saturday.

Casa Comunitário de CIPO-RFM

About 20 minutes from the centre of Oaxaca lies the casa comunitário of the CIPO. For some background information, the CIPO has been in existence since 1997 and has had a strong presence in over thirty different indigenous communities throughout Oaxaca. Essentially it is a libertarian organisation which stresses the need for community autonomy from the government, self-organisation, equality and solidarity. The people involved have participated largely on projects within communities, yet were also initially heavily involved with the APPO (Asamblea Popular de los Pueblos de Oaxaca [Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca]), having organised several demonstrations within Oaxaca. It is a non-hierarchical organisation where delegates from each community communicate ideas and proposals at annual meetings. Decisions from these are then carried out by working groups made up from communities who are interested. For the previous 7 years CIPO communities have faced brutal repression from the government and paramilitary groups in surrounding areas. This involved state-sanctioned imprisonment, torture, theft, surveillance and murder. Extreme cases of this was in 2002 when 42 people were kidnapped from one community and held by a right-wing paramilitary group; and in 2003, when an armed group of paramilitaries raided the community of Yalviche wounding 9 people and killing one man with machetes. Many communities are still in a state of fear as result of this repression. Furthermore, many have left the CIPO in fear that being involved is too dangerous.

In this context the casa comunitário has been part of the struggles of CIPO communities and broader movements within Oaxaca. It stands as a contact point if you want to help out, and to go to one of the CIPO communities. The casa has been in existence since 2001, when it was occupied and squatted. It stands as a symbol of resistance in one of the more conservative suburbs in Oaxaca, two blocks from where Brad Will (US Indymedia journalist) was murdered in 2006 by government supporters. However, despite its location, the casa is thriving with life as people involved in struggles from CIPO communities, broader Mexico and throughout the world have been helping out with this project.

The casa involves two main projects (an organic vegetable garden and the building of a house full of large dormitories for comrades to stay) and a range of other projects nearby which people staying at the casa assist with (eg. helping out comrades at food markets, cultivating nearby land, preparing banners for demonstrations, cleaning, etc). At times this is pretty hard work, but it's a way to offer concrete support on some pre-existing projects rather than merely "viewing" what struggle is here.

Personally, participating in the everyday struggles that go on here in some sense helped contextualise the idea of the 'everyday struggle' – which I find are talked about a lot in Australia, but don't really exist. The work that is done here is struggle. It's a collective process of labour and production of necessary and desirable forms of existence, free of bosses and social control…well, until you step outside and return to banality of capitalism. Essentially the CIPO and the casa are experiments which are constantly adapting to change (and creating it), while trying to create autonomous spaces outside of the state and capitalism.

The casa is open to all who are interested and involved in struggle. It is drug and alcohol-free and it's expected that you will help out with the projects in the casa and outside.

To get in touch with either project or get more information

email: masn@masn.org.au

or to directly contact the casa comunitários in Oaxaca visit:

www.nodo50.org/cipo

Exposé: The Birthday Interview

Some Mutiny Zine Editors interview ourselves to celebrate our 2nd birthday.

How did the zine start?

SourDough: During a real downtime for the Mutiny collective, after the failure of a couple of things that we'd been doing as a collective, the idea of maybe concentrating on doing propaganda came up.

Princess Mob: Some of the appeal, & this was something we were quite clear about from the start, was that it was an ongoing project; & the point was just to have something & make it keep going, to do something every month – not to make something that's perfect every time.

And how did you guys get involved?

Maxium Solidarity: Well, I was walking down the street one day, & I was really sad, & I wasn't doing anything that I thought was really good, & a friend of mine said 'Hey, we're making this zine, do you wanna help?' And then I said 'that sounds great, I'd love to', & so I told Graff Cat, & she was really excited, & then we went & helped out with the zine. I think that happened on the second issue, but we were busy that weekend, so we went & helped out on the third issue.

SD: The people answering these questions have been editors for the longest – but there's been many special guest editors for particular months.

PM: And of course there's DumpsteredTwin, corresponding by email, cos he's got a sore tummy…

DumpsteredTwin: Well initially all my confidence in the zine resided in other editors - who had more experience in self-publishing (not that I didn't see any value in it). But it soon became the case that when we'd said we wanted to challenge critical thought within the (anarchist) left, it was also a challenge for ourselves to be a part of that process.

Why do we keep going?

MS: I ask myself that every month. It's easy to forget, but people do read it – as far as a handful of people working on a zine, with pretty much no money involved, it goes far & wide, & people appreciate it. It is important for people to talk about ideas, & spread messages, & feel like they have some kind of platform, & are connected to something that's real rather than feeling like isolated individuals with an idea.

SD: To me a big thing was encouraging people who are involved in whatever struggles locally to write stuff: that those struggles were worth writing about, & even if they weren't, y'know, great academic theorists – there was stuff they had to say that was worthwhile & that people would want to read. And for a while that was really working, there were a lot of contributions we were getting from varied places – varied enough – & that if we needed to go searching for a particular thing we'd generally find someone to write it for us. That seems to have changed a bit… it's been a bit harder to get things.

It's pretty random what articles get put in there. Some people might see that as not having a clear political aim, but for the type of zine we do I think that's alright – there'll be articles in there about stuff that most people who receive the zine won't really know much about in depth. Even with the news briefs, for example, to hear that there's been an uprising over a few days over working conditions in Bangladesh, that's something you don't generally get to read about, unless you go searching for it on the

net…

PM: Or go to BombsAndShields, which is where we get half our new briefs from.

SD: Yeah.

PM: And there's been a few things that we've covered in the lead up to & then afterwards. Things like the G20 protests, & the recent Anarchist Federation proposal & meeting – we were printing call outs for them, & then reports & reflections on what happened & the ongoing stuff. In some ways the stuff that we do is really random, but for certain things the zine archives would be a history of certain streams within recent Australian politics.

DT: And it's inspiring (historically speaking), to know that Anarcho-publications, such as Freie Arbeiter Stimme (Free Voice of Labor) New York or the Periódico CNT (CNT Journal) Spain, came before us & that it's not a new thing – we're simply upholding the tradition – with our contemporary dressings of course.

What's the process of making the zine like? How do we choose articles?

MS: Usually we're like: 'Hey, we should have a zine next week. Let's make a callout.' Then we figure out a time that we can all hang out. Then we get a big piece of paper & we write a list.

Graff Cat: Lists are good.

MS: Then we distribute tasks.

GC: Mostly everyone reads through everything once, and looks at each other's editing.

SD: For what reasons would we not put something in?

GC: If it's not quite finished. Or if it's too personal. They're the two examples I can think of.

PM: Too personal in that there's no attempt to make it relevant to a broader audience. Cos we have published stuff that is more personal, but that's if we can see more clearly the politics in the expression of that experience, or it's just explained better what's going on.

SD: Sometimes we've just encouraged people to spend another month working on the articles instead of rushing to this deadline, then it might get better, it might say a bit more.

MS: Generally when we meet we spend about half the time deciding whether to have a cat on the cover of this issue or not.

PM: There's clear factions within the collective.

GC: I don't see anything wrong with having a cat on the cover.

MS: But every time?

PM: And we generally end up having at least one argument over 'I just want this to be done, it looks great' versus 'No, but if I change this, it will look so much better!' And it always does look better, but it's not always worth the extra time…

GC: For the sake of sanity.

SD: There's always the difficulty once the zine's been completed – finding somewhere to photocopy, & working out distro, so the whole process was worthwhile. We generally rely on people who work in places with photocopiers. It's frustrating & annoying that that is the difficulty: that in the society we live in, we don't have easy access to the resources to put out a publication like this, so even after putting in the effort of putting it together & thinking that it's good, it can be hard getting it out to people… & sometimes we're just lazy as well.

MS: Then there's the discussions we've had about doing it on the computer or doing it cut-&-paste. Some of us, the way that we knew how to do things was doing them digitally, & so we did it like that; & so that maybe alienated other people who weren't so computery-minded. I don't know if we did a good job at resolving that or not. That's the point of working as a collective – it doesn't need to be homogenous or anything.

PM: Perhaps it's worth mentioning that this all has to fit in around the fact that people work all kinds of different hours. Some people work full time, some people work weird temporary contract shifts, or do casual work, or work part time, or are off caring for family. One reason that things get last minute is that people are trying to fit this in around paid work, & various unpaid work, & study… But mostly cos we're trying to fit it around paid work.

What's with the silly names?

PM: We'd use pseudonyms partly for security culture reasons, or because it might effect our employment, or whatever else – but we did want to have some consistency, so people would know this person was the same person who said something else. And the people we talk to personally would end up knowing who

the different editors were, but we didn't want to be able to google our real names & find the zine. Also it's kinda fun, it makes it seem exciting.

MS: And if people wanna write in & say something, they can actually refer to someone.

So why did people choose their names?

MS: With AngryNerd, I think that was largely descriptive. I am a real nerd, but I feel like there so much stuff going on… Even in high school – being completely socially inadequate & completely shy, but the realities of the world making it so that I could not simply be shy & not do anything. It's just too much. And to get across that with a group of people there's complete variability – so there's passive nerds & angry nerds & whatever.

And with Maximum Solidarity – after we came across that term it was kind of a joke. But now Maximum Solidarity is like the superhero that I'd like to be. I often find myself thinking: 'What would Maximum Solidarity do? Max Solidarity would definitely go & do xyz. Alright, let's do that.'

PM: I was reading about King Mob, & the whole the post-Situationist Up Against the Wall Motherfuckers / Black Mask New York art riot gang, or whatever. And going from that to the idea that it would be really awesome if there was a group called Princess Mob that was taking those ideas & that anger & filtering it through a completely different gender lense. And then the roots of King Mob, the name is from some English peasant revolt where they broke people out of prison & wrote on the wall 'by authority His Majesty King Mob'. And then there's the comic books, The Invisibles, & there's the character King Mob who's drawing on both of those. So Princess Mob is the female version of all of those entities.

SD: SourDough was my Aqua Teen Hunger Force name.

GC: Please explain.

SD: So you've seen the cartoon Aqua Teen Hunger Force. They've all got food names – Meatwad, Master Shake, Frylock. Sourdough was my name if I'd be on that show.

PM: Graf Cat?

GC: I think it's boring. I couldn't come up with anything else. I hate coming up with names.

DT: Personally, I wasn't used to putting my real name to political writings / articles / essays / haikus. But on coming up with a name? Here's a tidbit of trivia: the unfortunately-hard-to-find issue, Issue #1's review mis-titled V is for Vendetta was written by two people - The Dumpstered Twins - which was DumpsteredTwin & Huevo Podrido (cos we were dumpstering for our food at the time).

The next question is about problems & what we've learnt.

DT: Some of our comrades would say we're just as organised as we first started - especially with our 'timely' contribution callouts.

PM: We've learnt that friends who go overseas & write blogs are really useful.

MS: But we don't want all our friends to go overseas.

PM: But if people insist on going overseas then they have to become foreign correspondents for the zine.

Distribution generally is a problem: working out where to put them that people will take them, beside the obvious places – anarchist bookshops & punk record shops & other record shops. Beyond that we haven't really established yet ways to put it places that people who could be interested will pick it up.

SD: Sometimes maybe it seems too random, the articles we put in there. This is nearly contradicting what I said before, but the random nature of the articles we get doesn't really give a sense of where the anarchist movement in Australia is at – it doesn't do much beyond a real basic entry point to some things that are going on – which, as I said, I still think is important. And I think that has more to do with a lack of anarchists putting things out, than just us in the zine.

PM: We do need to go back to what we did more at the start, which is get people doing actions locally to write reports on them, even if they're not heaps big or exciting.

What have been your highlights? Articles? Issues? Interactions?

SD: When you come across people who have got the zine, like people interstate who have come across it & read it.

MS: People seem to know it surprisingly far & wide – surprisingly to me, anyway.

GC: We don't get enough feedback to know – just occasional feedback.

PM: This is me being a nerd – I was really excited that I can look up the State Library of NSW catalogue & find the zine listed. And know that it's going to be archived for people to look at in years to come.

SD: And the local mailout – sending out a zine to someone who's seen it & then asked if they can get it every

month. And sometimes they send us articles.

PM: They've been some of my favourite articles. The 'I'm waging war on teenage life letter', that was pretty awesome. Creative Insane's article. Also the fruit picking article I really liked – people just writing about their own experiences & sending it in. And when Marshall Cinque sent that article then came & helped with editing. And I've liked the times where there's been an exchange of letters – when arguments have been taken up.

SD: It's a problem that debates that are happening don't necessarily get taken up in the zine.

PM: I'm thinking that this month's report on the anarchist convergence is going to spark some letters – I'm hoping it does.

I've also really liked the cover contributions we've got. Especially the person who walked into Black Rose with the duck in the hat cover & said it was for the Mutiny Zine.

SD: The drawn cover contributions have been some of our best covers. Most of our covers have been our best covers, except for a few.

PM: I liked the one with four spelling mistakes…

The cover's something we've talked about a lot. Some people say they wouldn't pick it up cos it's not clear that it's political, but we've always said that we don't want to use really typical activist graphics, & if we have something that gets attention hopefully people will read the titles & see something that interests them.

MS: I find the cover one of the most fun aspects. I'm always yearning to do creative stuff, & if I'm doing it in a work situation it's always something depressing & horrible; & so it feels really really really good to be making something creative that is something that we like & that is going to get published – there's no compromising or anything, it's just collective creative fun.

PM: If we haven't been able to make anyone else write stuff, it has been good for the broader Mutiny collective – encouraging them to write stuff cos there'll be a place to get it published. And I think those articles have been good experiments in collective writing. And good articles.

MS: Meeting people & hanging out with the collective is good. It's a social thing as well as a productive thing.

SYDNEY ANARCHIST MEET-UP

A time for discussion, ideas & forming affinity.

The start of regular meetings to improve solidarity, mutual aid & communication between anarchists & friends in Sydney & NSW.

2pm - Sunday April 27
Jura Books
440 Parramatta Rd,
Petersham

This is a callout for contributions to a photo & art exhibition organised by Copwatch Sydney.

Copwatch is dedicated to the struggle that will end police terrorism. We want to reduce police violence, & disrupt the ability of the police to enforce race & class lines.

We are committed to creating dialogue & action around revolutionary alternatives to policing, prisons, & all systems of domination, oppression and exploitation. We aim to observe & collect information about police activity, & hope to form relationships with & offer support to communities who are subject to heightened levels of policing – we want to challenge policing at a grassroots level.

In building community power, & shifting power away from the state, we see the potential to positively change our world.

This is why Copwatch is organising an exhibition – to spark ideas, thought & action around current policing in Sydney. To make this possible, we are calling on folks to provide us with photos & other forms of artwork that interrogate policing or simply expose police tactics & behaviour. If you have contributions, want to get involved, or just wanna get emails, contact us at:

copwatchsydney@gmail.com

Protest, Party, Action! Dump the G8 Summit in Japan

From No! G8 Action Japan

The G8 banquet is coming to Japan soon. It's a summit for a neoliberal dystopia held at a fancy hotel besides Lake Toya, Hokkaido. We do not agree with the neoliberal economic agenda that the G8 has pushed through globally. We dissent to the way leaders decide things throughout our lives. We, the multitude, a cluster/collectives of anarchists, the poor, rabble, queer, feminist, precariate and whatever are coming together to organise protests & parties in celebration of our lives. Here is the list of what you can be part of:

Action Schedule

* 24-26 May (Kobe) Meeting of the Ministers of Environmental Affairs
* 13-14 June (Osaka) Meeting of the Ministers of Financial Affairs
* 26-27 June (Kyoto) Anti- Foreign Ministers Meetings, Rally and March
* 28-29 June (Tokyo) Rally and March
  Anti-State Repression, Feminist & Queer Party, Counter G8 Intellectual Symposium
* 01-04 July (Sapporo) Themed Actions (Rally and March)
  01 July (Sapporo) Anti-Military Base and Anti-War
  02 July (Sapporo) Anti-WTO (World Trade Organisation), Anti-Privatisation
  03 July (Sapporo) Anti-Neoliberalism
  04 July (Sapporo) Farmers' Day/Food Sovereignty, Day of Ainu Indigenous People
* 01-04 July (Sapporo) Indigenous Summit
* 03 July (Sapporo) Forum on Women and Military
* 04 July (Sapporo) Forum on Women's Rights
* 05 July (Sapporo) International Action Day
* 05 July (Chitose) Airport Protest
* 07-09 July (Lake Toya) Blockade
* 06-08 July (Sapporo) Alternative Summit

Facilities

* In Tokyo/Osaka/Kyoto: Convergence Centre
* In Sapporo: Convergence Centre, Camp, Independent Media Centre
* Near Lake Toya: Camp, Independent Media Centre

In the Tokyo area, we are arranging budget accommodations (about $15/night) as well as billeting. Let us know your needs.

Regarding the immigration, for those nationals eligible for visa exemptions (including Australia) it should not be a problem unless you have a special background. In such cases, organise an invitation letter or applying for a visa could be an option. Let us know if you have any questions. We have a legal working group.

From Australia, JetStar offers cheapest tickets for most of the season. Don't forget to buy a Japan Rail Pass before your departure.

For fundraising, a couple of CDs are out: Anti G8 Compilation Jiriki, Gotcha/Rosapark's Punks Against G8, and an album made by the anarcho marching band The Infernal Noise Brigade and Filastine. Check our website for those want to buy & distribute.

Join us for creating non-capitalist autonomous alternatives and solidarity across Asia and beyond!

Contact us at:

nog8@sanpal.co.jp
http://a.sanpal.co.jp/no-g8/
http://www.gipfelsoli.org/Home/4558.html

REVIEWS

***Crowbar My Heart*, Issue 1 (zine).**

Sandy/Comrade Crowbar (2008)

Crowbar My Heart bills itself as 'the world's greatest squatting zine'. Now, probably zine covers aren't always that reliable, (except for ours, of course, we're always reliable) but this one's definitely true.

With rents rising, housing become harder to find & real estate agents & landlords using this squeeze to make things even tougher for renters, discussion around the politics of housing are more & more vital & urgent. The other day Sandy handed me this zine & said 'you can review this for Mutiny'. Ok, but I'm tired now, so it'll be a pretty sketchy review.

A big part of the zine is about the history of squatting, which is often ignored or never recorded. And if you never know what happened, it's harder to imagine what could happen now. So, we have a clipping about current Sydney rent rises juxtaposed with info on the Unemployed Workers' Movement of the 1930s. Then there are snippets of the history of recent squats in Sydney, including the soon-to-be-evicted Iceland in Balmain, the Broadway Squats & other SquatSpace projects.

There's an essay about the interrelation between social movements & alternative spaces, which asks interesting questions & makes thoughtful suggestions in a very readable way.

There's instructions on securing doors (which begins with the warning: 'Burglars may attack a door in many ways').

There's a Euro-based call-out for decentralised days of actions for squats & autonomous spaces, which includes the great phrase 'unaligned & ungovernable islands of uncontrolled freedom'.

There's porn about dumpster diving, which isn't really about squatting at all, but oh well.

The best bit is the editorial section at the end, which encourages people to think about the politics of squatting. There's the obvious politics of messing with private property, but Sandy wants people to think more subtly as well, about work & power & privilege within spaces, about how squatting could connect to working towards decent housing for all, & for how all these questions about space play out in a country based on colonial dispossession & the myth of an empty land. All of this with an energy towards play.

I hope this zine is going to be a continuing project, & I know they're looking for contributions, so send something in & ask for your copy: comradecrowbar@yahoo.com.au

by Princess Mob

***Cypher* (movie, 2002)**

Cypher is set in a future science fiction dystopia, a dystopia that can be overcome by being rich, cool and smart (or something). It's set in a future where the cars are from the 90's but the corporations are ultra powerful and waging a violent and ruthless information war. The best bits of this movie are great and hilarious. I don't want to give too much away – which really limits what I can say.

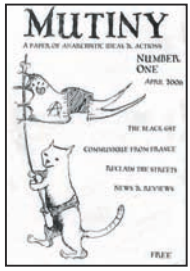
The film deals very much with the issue of identity. Corporations use individuals for periods of time offering them the identity and life of their choice as a reward – but they never deliver on this promise: they 'dispose' of these people when they are of no use to the corporation anymore. The spies are people programmed to think they are nobodies and then used to infiltrate enemy corporations – they need brainwashing to truly believe they are nobody in order to get passed the lie detector tests of the other corporations when they are hired on.

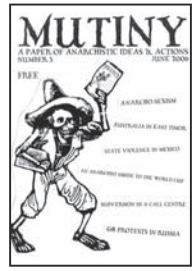
The idea of being offered an identity by a corporation resonated a lot with me in the sense of being a consumer and how you buy your personality with the commodity – how if you wear Sportsgirl brand you're smart, fit and fun or if you wear Rolex you're smart, strong, successful and handsome (NOT!).

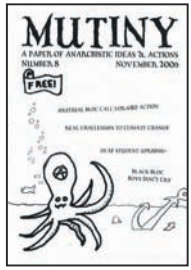
Basically this is an alright little film. As 'clever' as this script tries to be it still totally conforms to really standard script conventions – which leads to the cheesy ending that will leave most disappointed. The lame bits are really ordinary. The good moments in the film, however, are totally rad!

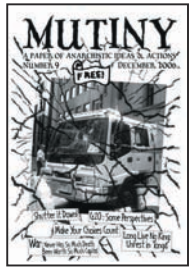
by Maximum Solidarity

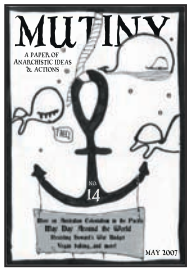
Celebrating 2 years of Mutiny covers!! ♥

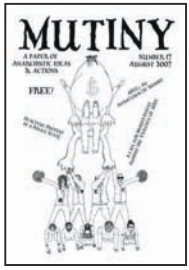


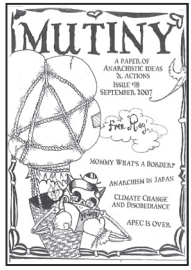


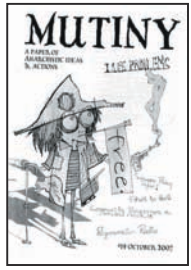


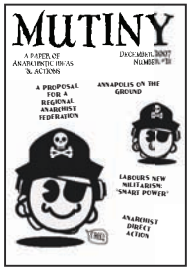












MUTINY
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